



The Southwester

Serving the Southwest and Capitol Riverfront Communities

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SWNA Elections March 9

Elections for representatives on the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) board of directors will be held on Saturday, March 9, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. outside of Safeway by the Waterfront Metro station.

SWNA is a 40-year-old nonprofit organization with a mission to improve the quality of life for Southwest residents.



Southwest resident Dorothy I. Height votes in the SWNA elections in 1986. (Photo by Thelma Jones)

Working with DC agencies and the Advisory Neighborhood Commission, SWNA has been pushing for many months to revitalize one of Southwest DC's largest city parks, Lansburgh Park, located on Delaware and I Streets SW. SWNA has encouraged city leaders to help build a dog park and a community garden in Lans-

burgh Park, and has organized multiple public events at the park in collaboration with many community organizations.

SWNA has been a leader in providing young people living in Southwest access to important educational programs and computer training. The organization has also spearheaded the nomination of several Southwest buildings for historic preservation, and is a strong supporter of activities and clean-up efforts at the Southwest Duck Pond. And of course, SWNA is also the publisher of our own community newspaper, *The Southwester*.

SWNA board members are community volunteers overseeing a variety of task forces within the neighborhood on issues such as youth activities, emergency preparedness and technology issues.

The eight district representatives will be elected from the four districts in Near Southwest (with zip code 20024), with two representatives per neighborhood. (District 1 is the area north of M Street and west of 4th Street. District 2 is the area north of M Street and east of 4th Street. District 3 is the area south of M Street and west of Delaware Avenue. District 4 is the area south of M Street and east of Delaware Avenue.)

Candidates were invited to submit 100-word statements for publication in this edition of *The Southwester*. Profiles submitted prior to the deadline begin on page 2.

Finally, A Southwest Area Plan; Now it's up to us to be engaged

By Kael Anderson and Andy Litsky

Our community, as defined by the ANC boundaries, is one of the most exciting communities in the United States. The extraordinary growth in less than 10 years is a result of our proximity to the Capitol complex and other federal anchors like the Washington Navy Yard and Fort McNair, the construction of Nationals Park, the phenomenal public private partnership that is the Yards, The Wharf, a \$2 billion world-class development along the Washington Channel, and the federal-DC partnership establishing a necklace of unparalleled open space lining Washington's rivers and historic canal. For those who have lived here a short time, it's hard to imagine what all of that change took to get.

But as rapid as the change, it was not without debate and planning. Lots of it. Residents participated in countless public meetings, charrettes, community engagement sessions, roundtables, and more Southwest Neighborhood Assembly and ANC meetings than anyone in their right mind should have to endure. And, through all of that process we've emerged with

what is rapidly becoming one of the hottest neighborhoods in the country.

Most who've lived here have embraced the change. Others, not so much. New building inevitably means change. And change is scary. But what we all have agreed upon is that, as change comes, it must be as a result of open discussion where residents, developers, city planners and the political establishment all have an opportunity to sit at the table and properly vet projects one-by-one.

So what now? How much is there really left to develop and how do we want that development shaped? For Southwest, where we have some brightly shining spotlights but lack uniform lighting, that's where the Southwest Small Area Plan comes in.

How will we be engaged in plans to bring the National Mall over Banneker Overlook and to The Wharf? What kind of development do we want to embrace at Buzzard Point? Will a soccer stadium bring the same kind of opportunities that the ballpark has done in SE? How will we ensure that we get neighborhood-serving retail?

See "Plan," page 4



Willow Bill and a young assistant work on a nearly life-size reindeer made of willow branches.

Willow Bill Visits Amidon-Bowen

By Teresa Neathery

Amidon-Bowen Elementary School had a very special guest artist come for a visit on January 22 and 23. His name is Willow Bill. He comes from Oregon. He brought a variety of willow branches to each class and made an almost life-sized willow reindeer.

He used coyote willow from Nevada, red willow from Montana and black willow from Maryland. He explained to the kids that safety is the first thing they should think about when they work with tools. He showed them how to use an electric drill and then let

them use it!

They did lots of math, measuring the lengths of sticks, learning about fractions and looking for geometric shapes in each part of the design. The children really enjoyed being a part of a real building project.

Our school now has nine reindeer to display. We are looking forward to having them decorated with twinkling lights next December. If you would like more information on Willow Bill and his National Willow Reindeer Project, please go to www.willow-bill.com.

■ Teresa Neathery is a kindergarten teacher at Amidon-Bowen.

A Community Center in Our Sights

By Eve Brooks

The Southwest and Near Southeast waterfront communities continue to attract newcomers. Drawn by relatively affordable housing, accessible public transportation, a reopened commercial Fourth Street, the vibrant Arena Stage and the Washington National's Stadium the area is attracting an influx of young professionals and some empty nesters. More development is coming, primarily in the form of the Wharf development.

Community planning must be a focus. It is not just about new buildings; mixing does not come naturally. The missing link is a community center — a place to bridge the populations — an indoor space to engage in arts, dance and mutual support. A place for learning and play has long been a top priority for residents who seek to share talents and to build community.

Recently the Community Benefits Coordinating Council's (CBCC) Board, representing Southwest and near Southeast organizations, and chaired by Rev. Ruth Hamilton, voted to make establishing a community center its highest priority in community benefits discussions

with the area's real estate developers. Its Community Enrichment Committee, led by Eve Brooks, is engaging SWNA and ANC 6D in a long-term effort to piece together funding and programming to create a new center.

What Programming Is Envisioned

The plans of the Community Enrichment Committee build on two needs-assessments that it completed in recent years. Envisioned is a range of activities for the new center, including:

- youth development programming
- opportunities for young parents to gather with infants and toddlers
- opportunities for young professionals to meet and mingle
- cross-generational programming
- visual arts training (painting, photography, graphic design)
- performing arts programming (music, theater and dance)
- crafts (pottery, sewing, quilting, knitting, flower arrangement)
- physical fitness such as yoga and dance.

Sought too are learning opportunities includ-

See "Community Center," page 3

Editors's Note: The following candidates for the SWNA board of directors submitted statements in time for publication of this edition. They are printed here in their entirety. See related story, page 1.

DISTRICT 2



Saadia Athias

Saadia has lived in Southwest since 1979 and served as a SWNA District 2 Representative since 2009. She holds a B.A. in Early Childhood Education and Master's in Public Administration. She spent fifteen years as an emergency response official and is currently a substitute teacher for DCPS.

Saadia is actively engaged in serving Southwest. She is vice chair of SWNA's Youth Activities Task Force, board member of South/Washington West of the River Strengthening Collaborative; member of MPD's First District Citizens Advisory Council, outreach coordinator for SWNA's Emergency Preparedness Task Force, and secretary for SW ArtsFest. Her photographs often appear in *The Southwester*.

Saadia is committed to empowering Southwest by generating more transparent programs to enhance community and workforce development, maintain awareness of crime and safety partnerships with MPD, and provide access to cooperative extensions assistance programs. Her ultimate goal is to identify facilities to operate essential community programs and find financial resources to sustain youth and senior citizen agendas.

SWNA Candidate Statements



Daniela Petrilli

Daniela has been a resident of Southwest DC for two years. She holds a Master's Degree in Organizational Communication and Leadership and works in human resources for the federal government.

Daniela has served as social committee chair of her residence and also co-chairs the Leadership Committee and is a lead volunteer at large-scale fundraising events at the Washington Humane Society.

When not working or serving the community, Daniela enjoys attending local DC events such as Restaurant Week and Taste of DC. She also enjoys the performing arts, concerts, movies and travel as well as spending time with family and friends.



Brent Wilson

Brent Wilson is a resident in the Southwest quadrant of Washington, DC and currently holds a senior position at IBM. At his company, he volunteers to mentor newly hired professionals. He is attending Graduate School at The George Washington University and is a member of Sigma Alpha Pi Honor's Society. Brent is an avid golfer and enjoys skiing and snowboarding. He is also an active member of his community's social committee.

Brent is a natural born leader and enjoys leading groups and organizing events of various

scopes. He also enjoys socializing with fellow Southwest residents and looks forward to better serving the community.



Anne Martin, candidate for SWNA Vice President

Anne Martin and her husband moved to Southwest in 1983. She retired from FEMA as Director, Readiness Division. Most recently she works as a consultant, specializing in counter terrorism and domestic preparedness for state and local governments. Her government career gave her extensive experience in managing multi-million dollar projects and organizations with experience in the functional areas of policy development, operations, plans, training, programming, and budgeting. She has public speaking experience as a trainer and speaker, including national and international level conferences, television and video. She is a graduate of the Federal Executive Institute, the U.S. Army War College and holds both Bachelors and Masters degrees in Business Administration and management.

She currently serves on Board of D.C. American Association of University Women, Clearinghouse on Women's Issues and is Vice President, Development, Woman's National Democratic Club.

Kamilla Kovacs, candidate for SWNA Vice President

Kamilla has lived in the Southwest/Capitol Hill region for four years, and has served as the



Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's vice president in the last year. During her time at SWNA, she has worked with community leaders to spearhead an initiative to launch a community garden in Lansburgh Park, at Delaware and I Streets, SW. She has also supported the efforts of dog owners in Southwest to build an off-leash dog park in the same location, and hopes the park will be a venue for a breadth of new community activities. Kamilla also serves on the Potomac Place Tower social committee, and as a parent of a two-cat household, she runs a volunteer petsitting group in her building.

Kamilla recently started a new job at BUILD, a nonprofit after school program working with DC high school students who have high truancy rates and come from disadvantaged backgrounds. BUILD's mission is to empower these students to stay in school and go on to succeed in college. Previously, Kamilla was a legislative assistant for a Congressman from Pittsburgh, and has worked in public interest advocacy for most of her prior career. She was born in Budapest, Hungary, and grew up in the DC area.



Donna Purchase, candidate for Secretary

Donna Purchase has lived in Southwest DC for more than 20 years. Retired from Fannie Mae Foundation as Director of

See "Candidates," page 3

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*Source: Preventable Risk Factors Attributed to Preventable Causes of Death in the District of Columbia, 2007, Department of Health Center for Policy, Planning, and Epidemiology, State Center for Health Statistics

ANC 6D Meeting: Small Area Plan to be Complete This Year

By B. K. Lunde

Tarek Bolden of the DC Office of Planning told our Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners and the audience about DC Small Area Plans. The plans go through about seven steps, with a lot of community input. When all agree that the best plan has been reached, the city councilmember who represents the area (in our case, Tommy Wells) presents the plan to the city council. Mr. Bolden said, “When the council endorses it, then, the plan has teeth,” and only the development shown on the plan can be done. He hopes to complete a plan by the end of the year for Southwest. The public owns fifty-six percent of the area. A plan will prevent piecemeal development that might not be best overall. Last month, the commissioners voted to not consider any more development until the completion of a Small Area Plan. They had heard of a charter high school being interested in the area.

Andy Litsky, chair of ANC 6D, will represent our Advisory Neighborhood Commission at the DC Zoning Commission meeting on Parcel 5 of the Wharf on Thursday, February 28 at 6:30 p.m. at 441 4th St. NW. He will report the support of the ANC for the plans for Parcel 5, with the understanding that a bus management plan will be provided so busses will not idle in the area. The public is invited to the meeting. He said in the ANC meeting, “Some people go nuts just when they see a bus. When it is idling, they really go nuts.”

The Wharf plans provide for two hotels with a total of about 400 rooms on Maine Ave., where 7th St ends. Those buildings also include about five restaurants and three or four stores. The only street frontage is Maine Ave., a through street carrying a lot of traffic. The access to one of the hotels is a half block away from Maine Ave., on an upper level. It faces the proposed 7th St. Park. The park is smaller than a tennis court. A bus lane is provided to the entrance, with the exit around the park.

A new commissioner, Ed Kaminski, appeared at the DC Zoning Commission and reported that the commissioners had voted unanimously that the plans of the developer for M St. and South Capitol St. did not meet expectations. Two of the experts on development of the Zoning Commission challenged the developer. The developer decided to defer its request. It will come back to the ANC when it has revised its plans. Mr. Kaminski said, “This was very good.”

The commissioners voted unanimously to endorse the curb cut and generator pad request of the developers of the new fire station to the Public Space Commission of the DC Department of Transportation. The fire station will move from 555 E St. SW to be under a new hotel on 400 E St. SW. The lot where the present fire station is will be developed later.

The commissioners appointed new Alcohol Beverage Commission representatives. They are Michael Lefphin, Lance Kubach, Cara Shockley, Travis Johnson, Gloria Hamilton and Shanon Vaughn. Cara Shockley will be the chairperson.

In connection with the play “Good People” being presented by Arena Stage, the theater will have a job fair Friday, March 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Many employers will be there recruiting. Also those attending will be offered training and resume writing. The play “Good People” opens with a dollar store cashier being fired for being repeatedly late to work, and goes on with the impact of her unemployment on her family.

The DC Historic Planning and Review Board will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 28, at 441 4th St. NW. Mr. Litsky will represent the ANC’s support of the application of Harbour Square for Historic Designation.

COMMUNITY CENTER

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ing mentoring and tutoring, small business development assistance and job training. Self-help groups such as AA, single parent and parenting classes, survivor and cancer victims groups also make the list.

The Randall Site

The focus of the planning is the Randall area at I and South Capitol Streets. Its long neglected park and empty Randall Rec Center, a closed 7,000 square foot facility, needs renovation but holds promise. The empty site, adjacent to a public pool, playing fields, tennis and basketball courts, is the focus of a planned playground, targeted by Mayor Vincent Gray for improvements in 2013.

In early summer 2012, Ward 6 Councilman Tommy Wells secured agreement from the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and Department of General Services (DGS) to place the Randall Rec Center out for bid to not-for-profits for the purpose of serving as a community center. By early fall, DPR put out a timeline, projecting issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) in December with Center reopening planned for Spring 2013. But the RFP is on hold with no explanation given.

KIPP DC Public Charter School, interested in building a high school at the present Randall Park would need City action in the form of an RFP on the park, playing fields and recreation center so that they could bid on a long-term lease for this site. KIPP plans would include incorporating a health clinic run by Georgetown Hospital. They also promise to rebuild the pool house, renovate the playing fields for school and community use and replace the old rec center

CANDIDATES

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Community Relations, she continues to be active in the community by serving on the board of three non-profit organizations. Purchase works with the DC Police Foundation to facilitate activities for youth in underserved neighborhoods and teaches financial literacy classes for WISER (Women’s Institute for Secure Retirement). She is past co-chair of the WAWF African American Women’s Giving Circle which provides funding to non-profit organizations that serve women and girls. She is married, has four children and nine grandchildren.

January Southwest Real Estate Update

Sold dollar volume is way down (-51%) as well as units sold (-45%). This is not a sign of a declining market but rather the opposite: we currently have an inventory crisis in SW and all of DC. This is why the sold dollar volume is so low compared to this time a year ago. With rates remaining low, buyer demand is high. I expect this trend to continue as long as inventory remains low. (The information below is deemed reliable but not guaranteed.)

	January 2013	January 2012	% Change
Sold Dollar Volume	\$1,918,500	\$3,937,000	-51.27%
Avg Sold Price	\$319,750	\$357,909	-10.66%
Median Sold Price	\$319,500	\$307,000	4.07%
Units Sold	6	11	-45.45%
Avg Days on Market	84	82	2.44%
Avg List Price for Solds	\$336,633	\$375,127	-10.26%
Avg Sale Price to Original List Price Ratio	92%	89.70%	2.91%

■ Courtesy of Jason Martin, a real estate professional & resident of Southwest. He may be contacted by phone at (202) 641-0299 or by e-mail at jason@jasonmartingroup.com.

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Friends of Southwest DC to Hold Annual Meeting

By Coralie Farlee

You are invited to the Annual Meeting of Friends of Southwest DC (FOS) which will be held this year on Thursday, March 28, at 7 p.m. at River Park Mutual Homes, 1311 Delaware Avenue SW, in the South Common Room. At the meeting, organizations in Southwest DC which have received grants from FOS during 2012 will tell us how the grant was used including participants' reactions. Several of the grantees have already confirmed.

The Friends of Southwest DC is a 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1998. The organization provides grants for community development, educational and charitable purpose in the near Southwest.

In 2012, support has gone to "EmmaUS" for educational trips for local youth, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's Technology Task Force, its Scholarship program for a college student from Southwest DC and to partially support the 100th year memorial of the sinking of the Titanic. Grants were also made to Kids Set Sail, the Appletree Early Learning Public Charter School and the Southwest Comm-Unity Forum. Additional recent grants provided sup-

port for free saxophone concerts by the world famous "New Century Saxophone Quartet" at St. Augustine's Church, Amidon-Bowen School and St. Augustine's Church for its Sunday morning community breakfast for homeless persons.

This annual meeting is an opportunity for donors to FOS as well as residents of the Southwest community to hear what FOS has accomplished during the year, and meet representatives from other non-profit organizations in SW DC.

The activities of FOS are supported by tax-deductible donations from local residents. Tax-exempt organizations in the Southwest DC area may apply for funding at any time. Contact Coralie Farlee, President, at 389 O Street SW, WDC 20024, 202-554-4407, or FriendsSWDC@yahoo.com. Donations may be made to this address or via credit card through Razoo.com (indicate "Friends of Southwest DC" in upper right window).

Refreshments will be available. If you would like to attend the meeting, please contact Joyce Bouvier, Secretary, at 202-488-4419 by March 25 for information on transportation, parking and directions for entering the River Park complex.

■ Coralie Farlee is President of Friends of Southwest DC.

PLAN

From p. 1

How will development maximize our scarce waterfront resources? Where will the Frederick Douglass Bridge be built? How will its placement alter the street patterns for Southwest? How will putting South Capitol Street at grade impact the street grid and any surrounding development? How do we develop a plan that breaks down the barriers across South Capitol Street? Do we honestly plan development around a streetcar line or is that just a pipe dream? The residential population on both sides of our ANC is going to increase by 50 percent and the daily workforce will double in less than 10 years.

Folks, this is a brand new city within a city. So, the question is how do we plan for that? How will development pressures be brought to bear on property adjacent to buildings that are already occupied?

Many of us who have lived in Southwest for a long time moved here because we wanted to be a part of a neighborhood with a rich heritage, full of diversity and ample public amenities. How will the development impact our residential diversity? Will we continue to build for singles and empty-nesters or shall we promote development that attracts families who will choose Southwest for the long term? What is our vision for our public facilities and open spaces, both of which are being given very hard looks by development interests? The choices we may make now in our schools, our library will have long-term repercussions. If

we give up control what do we lose?

Where will our kids go to run around? Where will they play soccer? Where will we play tennis? Would we like to carve out space for a year-round swimming pool? Are we looking for densely packed development or a community that embraces our heritage while accommodating new uses and opportunities?

We have the opportunity to all come to the table and engage in a discussion that assures one another – and demands of our public officials – that we maintain housing opportunities so that everyone benefits from the neighborhood's resurgence. That opportunity is the Small Area Plan.

The District's Office of Planning is now engaged in the initial preparation for a Southwest Small Area Plan (SAP). It will begin this Spring and will take about a year to properly explore all of the facets of what we want to see as our Southwest neighborhood continues to develop. Once those discussions have been held, the SAP will be adopted by the City Council and then formally become part of the District's Comprehensive Plan. So, start talking to neighbors and in your co-op, condo and resident associations. Begin to regularly attend SWNA and ANC meetings. And follow events in The Southwester and online. In order for the Southwest Small Area Plan to work for all of us, the conversation must begin with you.

■ Kael Anderson is President of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, and Andy Litsky is Chair of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6D.

Citizens Review Panel Seeks Volunteers

By The Southwester Staff

The Mayor's Advisory Committee Citizen Review Panel (CRP) invites volunteers interested in advising the Mayor on matters related to child abuse and neglect, and foster care. CRP members must be at least 18 years old, and a District resident. The CRP meets quarterly,

and panel members serve two-year terms.

Some of the CRP's recent activities include: Providing testimony before the D.C. City Council on child welfare and related issues; sponsoring a public forum on child trauma, researching and disseminating three major reports on mental health issues, early exits from foster care and mandated reporting on suspected child abuse and neglect; hosting the National Citizens Review Panel Conference; and working in collaboration with other youth-serving agencies and groups.

Anyone interested in serving should write to nyangoniBet@aol.com or Jelanifreeman@hotmail.com, and include the following information: Name, address, phone, email address, employer and title (if applicable), and a brief statement (30-50 words) about your reason, interest and/or skills you would bring to the Citizens Review Panel.

For more information call (202) 554-8040.

Job Fair at Arena Stage

By Sheila Wickowski

Arena Stage and the District of Columbia will host a job fair in Southwest D.C. led by Ward 6 Council member Tommy Wells. Nearly 20 local and government businesses will be on hand to offer employment, training and job-skill resources to our residents.

Recruiting companies onsite will include Comcast, Entertainment Cruises, CSX Railroad, Department of Employment Services (DOES), DC Water, Giant Foods, Gordon-Biersch Brewery Restaurant, Safe-

way, US ARMY Baltimore Recruiting Battalion, Wal-Mart and Washington Metro Transit Authority (WMATA), among others. Organizations including DC Housing Authority Workforce Development Office; Dress for Success; The Graduate School, USA; Living Classrooms; Street Sense; Strive DC and the United Planning Office (UPO) will also be offering one-on-one workforce development services to enhance interview skills and strengthen job-seekers' ability to get hired.

The job fair will be from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on March 1 in the Mead Center at Arena Stage.



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A World Premiere and MLK at Arena

By Sheila Wickowski

Arena's two plays in March – *The Mountaintop* and *Mary T. and Lizzie K.* – are both built around this question: What if we could listen in on the private conversations of historical characters?

First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln and her talented seamstress Elizabeth Keckly (also spelled Keckley) both have their moment to speak at the time of the Civil War in the movie *Lincoln*. In Tazewell Thompson's world premier production *Mary T. & Lizzy K.*, the focus is on their unconventional relationship over time.

We know that the Southern born Mary Lincoln was born to privilege and that former slave Elizabeth Keckly had bought her own freedom. Lizzy K. was skilled at dressmaking and Mary T. loved fine clothes. Besides fashion sense, these strong-willed women were outspoken and ambitious. Both experienced successes as well as tremendous pain and personal loss. What brought them together and what tore their friendship apart is a fascinating excursion into the minds of two powerful women.

What we have learned about them comes from a variety of historical sources, such as Keckly's autobiography published in 1868, as well as recent biographies. For the Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. there is abundant material. Besides his writings, there are his speeches on film so that we can see and hear him.

But what if, in the unseen private moments in that very public life, we could imagine what he might have thought about? Katori Hall's *The Mountaintop* presents such a possible picture of

Want To Go?

WHAT: World Premier of Tazewell Thompson's *Mary T. & Lizzy K.*

WHERE & WHEN: Arlene and Robert Kogod Cradle (March 15 – April 28)

SOUTHWEST NIGHT: March 20 at 7:30

WHAT: Resident playwright Katori Hall's award winning *The Mountaintop*

WHERE & WHEN: The Kreeger Theater (March 29 – May 12)

SOUTHWEST NIGHT: March 31 at 2:00

COST AND INFORMATION FOR ARENA SHOWS: Tickets vary from \$25-\$85 depending on performance and may be purchased online at arenastage.org, by phone at 202-488-3300 or at the Sales Office at 1101 Sixth St. SW. For info on discounts visit arenastage.org/shows-tickets/single-tickets/savings-programs

the night before his assassination. In the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, April 1968, a visit from a feisty hotel maid raises fascinating and surprising questions of the great man in unexpected ways.

The dramatic impact of Arena plays does not stop once the curtain comes down however. Both of these plays also promise to pique curiosity to learn more about these historical figures.

Digital Literacy Partnership Announced

On Feb. 14, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski joined Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan and representatives from the DC Housing authority at the Southwest Family Enhancement Center at Greenleaf Gardens to announce a new national digital literacy partnership that will benefit residents in public housing in DC and other cities throughout the country.

The objective is to reduce the "digital divide" by making low-cost broadband internet access available on a larger scale. Greenleaf in Southwest DC was selected to publically introduce the initiative. Also involved in the partnership are Best Buy's "Geek Squad," which will train public housing residents in DC and other cities, and Connect2Compete, which is helping make broadband internet available in public housing. Syphax, James Creek and Greenleaf are already being wired for Wi-Fi internet access.



From left to right: Southwest community activist Thelma Jones; FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski; Beverly, a recent trainee in SW who recently completed her training as a Certified Microsoft Specialist; and HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan in the computer lab at the Southwest Family Enhancement Center at Greenleaf Gardens. (Photo by Perry Klein)

National Gallery to highlight works

In conjunction with Arena's production of *Metamorphoses*, the National Gallery of Art will highlight several works from their collection depicting myths in a series of lectures and 20-minute gallery talks.

When and where:

■ March 6 at noon and 3:30 p.m. Lecture on Miraculous Transformations: Images from

Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. West Building lecture Hall.

■ March 4, 7, & 8 at 11:00 a.m. Gallery talk. *Apollo and Daphne* by Giambattista Tiepolo. National Gallery of Art, West Building Rotunda.

■ March 11, 13 & 14 at 11:00 a.m. Gallery talk. *The Fall of Phaeton* by Sir Peter Paul Rubens. National Gallery of Art, West Building Rotunda.

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MARCH

FRI 1 6:30 P.M. Potluck, 7 P.M. St. Augustine's Game Night. Board and card games provided, but feel free to bring your own games too. All ages welcome. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St. S.W., 202-554-3222 www.staugustinesdc.org or rector@staugustinesdc.org

SAT 2 1 P.M. Play Discussion (in partnership with Arena Stage) Mary Zimmerman's adaptation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Copies available at the SW Neighborhood Library, 900 Wesley Pl. S.W.

SAT 2 3-4 P.M. Walk a Sacred Path. The LABYRINTH opens the first Saturday of each month. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 Eye Street, SW.

SAT 2 4-5:30 P.M. Experience Yoga Nidra: Westminster Presbyterian Church. Pamela Wilson guides a very deep, conscious relaxation. A donation of \$10 is suggested. For more information call 202-746-6654 or email: wilsonpj108@verizon.net.

WED 6 7 P.M. St. Augustine's Art & Spirit Coffeehouse. Bethesda Chamber Singers. An *a cappella* group will perform Free, donations accepted. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St. S.W., 202-554-3222; www.staugustinesdc.org or rector@staugustinesdc.org

THURS 7 8 -9:30 A.M. Councilman Tommy Wells office hours, Channel Inn café, 7th & Water Street S.W.

SAT 9 10 A.M. – 3 P.M. Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Elections, outside Safeway. Residents over the age of 18 living in Southwest DC (ZIP code 20024) are eligible to vote.

SAT 9 10:30 A.M. Family Storytime, SW Neighborhood Library

MON 11 7-10 P.M. ANC6D Monthly Public Meeting, 200 Eye St. S.E., (note the new S.E. location this month, at the former Evening Star printing plant.)

MON 18 7-8:30 P.M. SWNA Annual Meeting, Arena Stage. Featured speaker: Councilmember Tommy Wells.

TUES 19 7:30 P.M. Southwest Chamber Players in Concert, performing various musical selections. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St. S.W., 202-554-3222; www.staugustinesdc.org.

WED 20 12 Noon Luncheon Meeting, AARP Southwest Waterfront Chapter 4751. Making the District of Columbia an «Age-Friendly City» with speakers Louis Davis, AARP Senior State Director; Mercy Morganfield, AARP State President; and Jacqui Jordan, Associate State Director. River

Community Calendar

View our on-line calendar at www.swdc.org/calendar.

Park Mutual Homes community room, 1311 Delaware Ave., S.W. For further information, contact Chapter President Evelyn Dorsey, Dorseydear@aol.com or 202-488-9685.

THURS 21 7-8:30 P.M. POLICE SERVICE AREA 105, Community meeting at Harbour Square, 560 N Street S.W. Get permission to enter at gate.

SAT 30 10-11 A.M. POLICE SERVICE AREA 106, Community meeting, Senior Citizen Community Room, 900 5th Street S.E.

SAT 30 1 P.M. Kitchen Table Book Discussion, SW Neighborhood Library. Copies of March title 'River Cross My Heart' by Breena Clarke, are available for checkout at the library.

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

AAARP-SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT CHAPTER 4751, 12 NOON, Third Wednesday of each month. River Park Mutual Homes community room, 1311 Delaware Ave., S.W. For further information, contact Chapter President Evelyn Dorsey, Dorseydear@aol.com or 202-488-9685.

AEROBICS WITH MS. DEE, 6:30-7:30 P.M., Mondays and Thursdays, at King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N Street S.W. FREE

BLUES MONDAYS, 6-9 P.M., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 Eye Street S.W., Various Blues musicians and singers featured each Monday. \$5. Food for sale.

COMPUTER CLASSES, Thursday 10-12 Noon, SW Neighborhood Library

THURS 7 Email Basics

THURS 14 Introduction to Microsoft Word

THURS 21 Introduction to Microsoft Excel

THURS 28 Introduction to Microsoft Powerpoint

APRIL 4 PC Basics

GIRLS SCOUTS Troop #4298 WEDNESDAYS, 5:30-7:30 P.M., ages 5 to 12. King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N Street S.W. Call: 202-570-4475, Email: girlscoutsswdc@gmail.com

HAND DANCING CLASSES, SATURDAYS, 12-2 P.M., Jitterbug, Lindy Hop, Classes by Markus Smith of Swing Anatomy Dance. \$10/class for adults, \$5/class for children 8-17. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth Street S.W., Community room off Wesley Place, S.W.

HAND DANCING CLASSES, SATURDAYS, 12:30-3:30 P.M., Mr. Zeke is teaching 18 years and older, King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N Street S.W. FREE

JAZZ NIGHT IN SW, FRIDAYS, 6-9 P.M. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 Eye Street S.W. Various Jazz musicians and singers featured each Friday. \$5. Food for sale.

THE KIWANIS CLUB OF SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT, 6:30-7:30 P.M., every first and third Monday Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth Street S.W.

NARFE-THE NATIONAL Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, 12:30-2:00 P.M., every fourth Thursday, September through May, at SW Neighborhood Library.

POLICE SERVICE AREA 105, Community meeting, **7-8:30 P.M.,** every Third Thursday, Location announced at previous meeting.

POLICE SERVICE AREA 106, Community meeting, **10-11 A.M.,** every Last Saturday, Senior Citizen Community Room 900 5th Street S.E.

PRE SCHOOL STORYTIMES, 10:30-11:30 A.M., Tuesdays and Thursdays SW Neighborhood Library.

SEATED YOGA, 11:00-Noon, Mondays, and Wednesdays 4-5 P.M., Westminster Presbyterian Church.

COMMUNITY CENTER

From p. 3

with a new, glass-enclosed community center to be managed by a community-identified organization. They propose having their project completed and ready for the 2014 school year.

The KIPP Charter Schools have earned the reputation as one of the most successful system of schools in the United States for low-income children and are rated in the top tier of charter schools by the DC Charter School Board. The high school would primarily serve children who have attended KIPP's three middle schools.

The Randall Park is adjacent to the Old Randall School, the site of the planned Rubell Art Museum and apartments. The project owners, Telesis Corp and the Rubell family have voiced support for a "Community Cultural Center" at the Randall Rec Center. They have voiced concern about incompatibility of the KIPP plan with their project.

The area may be subject to a small area plan to cover public properties in SW. Planning pro-

SOUTHWEST RENEWAL AA, Alcoholics Anonymous group, **8:30 P.M.,** Mondays, St. Augustine's Church, 600 M Street S.W., (202) 554-3222.

SOUTHWEST SEWING GROUP, 9:30 A.M.-2:30 P.M., Mondays, St. Augustine's Church, 600 M Street S.W., Contact Mary Henderson at (301) 336-9058.

SW FREEWAY, NA, 7-8 P.M., Narcotics Anonymous group, Wednesdays, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 Eye Street S.W.

WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTOR'S CLUB, 7-9 P.M., First and Third Wednesday each month. Buy, trade and sell stamps. Refreshments, auctions and programs. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth Street S.W. 202-863-0564

WEDNESDAY EVENING CHESS, 6:30-8:30 P.M., SW Neighborhood Library.

WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 Eye Street S.W., 4 P.M. Seated Yoga and Healing Sessions (Pamela Wilson and Riva Wine). 5 P.M. Tai Chi (Manifest Ra). 5:30 P.M. Laughter Yoga (Claire Trivedi). 6:45 P.M. Sampoorna Yoga (Alex Rosen). 7 P.M. Narcotics Anonymous SW Freeway Meeting.

■ Please submit calendar items by the 13th day of the preceding month to calendar@thesouthwester.com.

cess, announced recently by the City Office of Planning. The ANC's recent resolution in support of the plan recommended that no City action be taken on Randall pending the completion of the plan. If this recommendation holds it will hold up any broad RFP for the park-- and thereby delay the KIPP plan.

The CBCC Board, while taking no stand on the project, passed a resolution in their meeting on February 16 stating that the CBCC's primary goal is development of a community center. CBCC therefore supports a Small Area Planning process as long as it does not preclude continuing negotiations with KIPP, Telesis and any other parties interested in the Randall site.

Copies of the KIPP plan are available for viewing at the ANC office and at the CBCC desk in Westminster Church (400 I Street SW). Call Rev. Ruth Hamilton at 641-8221 to arrange access to the church. Information on the Telesis plan can be secured through Gabraham@telesiscorp.com or calling 202-333-8447.

■ Eve Brooks is a board member of the Community Benefits Coordinating Council (CBCC).



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Palm Sunday	Sunday, March 24	9:30 a.m.
Maundy Thursday	Thursday, March 28	7:00 p.m.
Good Friday	Friday, March 29	12:00 p.m.
Easter Vigil	Saturday, March 30	9:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday	Sunday, March 31	10:00 a.m.

(with Easter Egg Hunt at 11 a.m.)

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Bethesda Chamber Singers to Perform at Art & Spirit Coffeehouse

By Elaine F. Graves

The Bethesda Chamber Singers, an *a cappella* singing group, will be featured at the Wednesday, March 6, 7:00 p.m. program of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church's Art and Spirit Coffeehouse, 600 M Street, SW. According to spokesman John Carley, "the Bethesda Chamber Singers have been making *a cappella* music with panache for more than a quarter century." Coffee and desserts will be served throughout the evening, followed by questions and answers.

The program at St. Augustine's Art and Spirit Coffeehouse will include Jewish and Anglo-Catholic liturgical music, a renaissance travelogue, an African-American spiritual and a selection of popular classics from the 1920s and 30s.

Their repertoire ranges from medieval music to rock-n-roll, with intermediate stops for renaissance madrigals and motets, 19th and 20th century art songs and the Great American Songbook. Carley said, "We sing for our own and the audiences' pleasure; particularly enthusiastic members of the audience will be allowed to pet the panache after performances, weather



The Bethesda Chamber Singers: Front row, left to right: Ann Cook, Mimi Kuester, Nancy Allinson, Silvia Maza, Cathy Sloss, and Diane Mountain. Back row, left to right: Bill Richards, Peter Munson, Richard Cook, Bob Kibler, Gary Chirlin, Jon Mathis, and John Carley. (Photo courtesy of Bethesda Chamber Singers)

permitting!"

Begun in the early 1980s as a spinoff from the choir at Bethesda United Methodist Church, "the group," explained Carley, "over the years, learned to operate as a cooperative, deciding on repertoire and interpretations and performance commitments by consensus, and relying on each other to step up to perform essential chores like maintaining the library and preparing programs. And we decided we'd sing only *a cappella*."

Though none of the founding members are still with the group, Carley,

along with Diane Mountain and Cathy Sloss, have participated since 1985.

The Southwest Episcopal Church's Art & Spirit Coffeehouse series opens on the first Wednesday of each month to showcase local artists in their various media as they perform and share how their faith, art and social worldview intersect, according to the Rev. Martha Clark, Priest-in-Charge at St. Augustine's. Donations will be accepted to help provide honoraria for the guest artists. Contact rector@staugustinesdc.org, (202) 554-3222 or visit www.staugustinesdc.org for more information.

"Breaking New Ground" on September 28

Planning proceeds apace for SW ArtsFest 2013. Our annual neighborhood arts festival this year will have the theme "Breaking New Ground." Theme 2013 takes its inspiration from ongoing neighborhood redevelopment. The old EPA towers have already experienced extensive renovation. This year will see groundbreaking on the waterfront and on 4th Street south of I Street. Planning is well underway for I Street's Randall School project.

Scheduled for Saturday, September 28, SW ArtsFest 2013 will incorporate St. Augustine Episcopal Church's End-of-Summer Fair and Westminster Presbyterian's 12th annual DC Jazz Preservation Festival. The festival will also include neighborhood walking tours, hand dancing at Arena Stage, a bicycle parade, and entertainment at Christ United Methodist Church and from Hoffman-Madison Waterfront at The Wharf. As last year, organizers plan a Central Art Market between Safeway and M Street, with involvement by the Washington Nationals and an auction of items donated by local hotels and restaurants.

The SW ArtsFest board has set a producer deadline of June 1, 2013. For inclusion in SW ArtsFest 2013, producers must commit by that date. The board will continue its practice of requesting a financial contribution from each neighborhood producer. For more information on how to become an SW ArtsFest 2013 producer, email swartsfest@gmail.com or call 202-320-0286. Some producers will include space for local artists. If you want to exhibit your art at SW ArtsFest 2013, contact Saadia Athias at saadenterprise@msn.com.

SW ArtsFest board meetings are open to the public. The board will next meet at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 2, at Christ United Methodist Church, 900 4th St. SW. On May 4, SW ArtsFest will hold its annual meeting to elect officers and board members. Adrienne Terry chairs the SW ArtsFest Nominating Committee. If you're interested in serving on the SW ArtsFest board, contact Reverend Terry at (202) 554-8899 or rokofages@yahoo.com.

SW ArtsFest on September 28 will start a week featuring arts in Southwest, climaxing with the (e)merge art fair from October 3-6. That week, art lovers will find Southwest DC center for accessible art.

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Coach Finds Victory Even in a Loss

By Lucy Rojansky

Paradoxically, it was the moment it became clear that the Amidon-Bowen boys' basketball team had no chance of winning their first playoff game in over two years that their coach, Frank Briscoe, felt his greatest pride in them.

"Anybody can win," he said. "It's how you lose that shows the strength of your character, your discipline, sportsmanship and how you handle adversity."

The boys, he said, continued to play hard as the clock ran down, and shook hands respectfully with their victorious opponents, the boys of Moten Elementary School.

Closing out the season with a stellar five wins and only two losses, the Amidon-Bowen boys' basketball team had garnered more than a winning record. Coming off of two years with no basketball team at all, they had begun the season

as the smallest team in the league with only five players. By season's end, that number had grown to 11.

Coach Briscoe attributes that growth and the team's success to the vision of Amidon-Bowen Principal Izabela Miller, the support of teachers, parents, and the community, and the dedication of the support staff—custodians, referees, clock minders—all of whom worked together to bring this season to fruition. But more than a little credit belongs to the coach himself.

"[Coach Briscoe] is a mentor, a brother, a teacher and a coach all in one," said Principal Miller. "Students and staff have the highest respect for him."

Indeed, Coach Briscoe knows a thing or two about building a successful sports team, having begun his career in 1974 at his alma mater, the Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, Nebraska. There he coached basketball and football until he returned to his hometown, Washington DC, to continue his coaching career at the high school level. He remained at Anacostia High School for 31 years. In 2012, instead of accepting retirement, he decided to dedicate his talent to the children of Amidon-Bowen.

"I was scared to death," he said

of the transition from coaching high schoolers to elementary school students. But Principal Miller had a clear vision for the opportunities she wanted for her students, and Coach Briscoe offered her the perfect combination of experience and proven ability.

"Coach Briscoe has brought new energy, perspective and vast experience into Amidon-Bowen," said Principal Miller. "He is a walking example of words in action. He coaches students in a holistic way."

The once-dormant sports program at Amidon-Bowen now boasts a basketball team, track team and cheerleading squad. The number of students eligible to participate in the program is eight times larger than when the year began, with some 40 students now having legitimate physical examinations on record.

Still, the program faces its share of growing pains. In the two years without a sports team,

Amidon-Bowen's school colors changed, but the children this year had no choice but to compete in generic red and white uniforms. It is Coach Briscoe's hope to have Amidon-Bowen's blue and orange uniforms for his students next season, even if it means buying them himself.

Indeed, Coach Briscoe and Principal Miller share a similarly ambitious vision for the student-athletes of Amidon-Bowen. Their goal is to see Amidon-Bowen graduates recruited by the District's middle and high schools that recognize the students' achievements in the classroom and on the playing field. In this year's basketball season, it seems they are finding early success.

"Students are able to achieve greatly only because of his patience, fervent commitment and understanding of children's minds and hearts. I cannot imagine this school without him now," said Principal Miller.

Even facing defeat in the season's final game, Coach Briscoe saw boys who had learned to work together, trust each other and who had developed their skills as players.

"I was very proud of how they handled themselves," said Coach Briscoe. "They represented themselves, their parents, Amidon-Bowen and Southwest admirably."

As the boys left the game, any disappointment in the loss was outweighed by their excitement about the future.

"They kept asking me, 'what's next?'" said Coach Briscoe.

What's next, he told them, is outdoor track and flag football. The season begins in March.

Editor's Note: Are you interested in making a donation towards new school uniforms for the team? If so, contact Coach Briscoe.



The Amidon-Bowen Boys' Basketball team finished the season with a winning record. (Photo by Lucy Rojansky)



Coach Briscoe encourages his players. (Photo by Lucy Rojansky)

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